

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Urdahl and others

Subject: Individual income tax credit for teachers who obtain a master's degree in their field of licensure

Analyst: Nina Manzi, 651-296-5204
Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036
Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

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Overview

Allows a new refundable individual income tax credit of \$2,500 to K-12 teachers who complete master's degrees in their field of licensure.

Section

1 Credit for attaining master's degree in teacher's licensure field. Allows a refundable individual income tax credit of \$2,500 to licensed K-12 teachers who complete a master's degree program in their field of licensure. Requires elementary school teachers to complete a master's degree in a core content area in which the teacher provides direct classroom instruction. Core academic subjects defined in federal and state law include English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography and exclude any pedagogy. Limited to teachers who begin a program after June 30, 2015, and teachers would claim the credit in the year they complete the degree. Teachers may claim the credit once for each master's degree completed.

Provides that if the credit exceeds an individual's tax liability, the amount in excess of liability will be paid as a refund. Provides an ongoing appropriation for payment of refunds.

Effective beginning in tax year 2015, but payment of credits for degrees completed in 2015 or 2016 are delayed to 2017.